

MEETING MINUTES

Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, 11 January, 2023

Location: Via Zoom

Board members attendance	
Dave Coyle, President Kevin Wolfe, Treasurer Gabriel Gonzalez Secretary	Terry Wood, Director Rob, Director Katarina Descher, Director

1. Call to Order and agenda approval

1.1. Dave called the meeting to order at 7:05PM and reviewed the agenda (published on the website). Dave also informed that the recording of the December meeting was uploaded on YouTube and the website.

Dave moved to adopt the agenda and was seconded by Terry.

Motion carried.

2. Receipt of Minutes of the December 14th, 2022 Board Meeting and review of actions

2.1. Dave invited all participants to review the minutes of the December meeting (published on the website) and to contact Gabriel with any comments.

Kevin moved to approve the minutes. He was seconded by Terry.

Motion carried.

2.2. Dave then reviewed the list of actions from the December meeting.

2.2.1. Short term actions included issuing the Halloween and Christmas gift cards, fixing formatting issues, paying MASC, and providing input on George's proposed survey.

2.2.1.1. Kevin agreed to issue the gift cards and explained that MASC will be paid this month. The formatting was also fixed.

2.2.1.2. George was not available to update on the status of his survey, but Terry announced that it would go ahead in the coming weeks with the support of the Councilor,

and that the goal would be to better understand the area's demographic and identify the services residents would like to see move into the area. Terry also asked whether the RPCA could host the survey on its website and inform the community through its newsletter. In return, George would share the results of the survey with the RPCA. Terry also underscored that this survey is conducted by George with the support of Carleton University's Sprott School of Business.

2.2.2. Longer term actions include working with the Councilor on mapping out parks and their amenities throughout the community, liaise with the Councilor's office to find a location for community gardens, continue discussions on West Walkley Road modifications and articulate main concerns over Mooney's Bay festivals to the Councilor's office.

2.2.2.1. Dave had a conversation on parks with Andrew from the Councilor's office. As with the other points on that list, next steps will depend on Andrew finding time to sit down with the RPCA. The point on West Walkley Road was discussed during the Councilor's report.

2.2.3. Carolyn reached out to the Altavista Councilor who was instrumental in getting christmas wreaths and summer hanging baskets installed along Altavista road. The Community Association purchased the Christmas wreaths from Costco and the hanging baskets and had them installed. The baskets themselves present the issue of watering. The wreaths have a life expectancy of about five years. The Association had a business volunteer to do the installation for free on Ottawa City lamp posts. Banners are done downtown by the City of Ottawa and NCC for tourism and could be replicated in Riverside Park. Carolyn also recalled that the real estate agent Crepin was approached on whether he could cover at least some of these costs.

In support of Carolyn's idea, Terry noted that the City's traffic calming budget could cover "community entrance signage," so it could be another possibility to explore. Marika agreed with the need to beautify the community. Kevin suggested someone in the community could design something before looking at the potential costs. Dave agreed with the ideas and hoped someone could take on the idea. Dave suggested a revived social and cultural committee would be the ideal place to take on this project.

2.2.3. Still on the topic of beautification, Dave hoped that the flower beds could be moved to a place with access to water.

2.2.4. Carolyn also praised the Santa's Nice List initiative.

3. Finance report / future planning

3.1. Kevin reviewed the December finance with the first payment issued for the rinks. He did note that all the rinks could not open in time because of the lack of volunteers and weather. The main expenses covered the membership software, garden (final cleanup of the previous site), the sponsorship for the Councilor's event and the Santa event.

3.2. Kevin then reviewed the RPCA's accounts, which are currently +\$1000 from this time last year. There will be a number of payments issued in January once the President and Secretary are approved as signatories by the bank.

4. Councilor's report and Q&A

4.1. Before giving the floor to Councilor Brockington, Dave highlighted the actions discussed under point 2.2.2. that need the Councilor's involvement. He highlighted the mapping of the parks and amenities and the discussion he had with Andrew to map parks, especially Paget park. The Councilor recalled he had suggested either doing a macro analysis of all parks in the community first, or focusing on Paget park, which he argued is a small park that can't accommodate all the changes suggested at the December meeting.

Dave said the RPCA is ready to proceed with the help of the Councilor's office. The Councilor agreed to get the ball running and asked Dave to identify board members who would like to participate in the exercise. The Councilor committed to ask parks and rec to give him criteria that are used for determining ideal locations for community gardens and whether they could recommend any parks that would be ideal for community gardens.

Carolyn noted that dog parks were also mentioned in previous discussions and that splash pads should also be considered. The Councilor noted that the City is currently thinking of what to do with wading pools when they come to the end of their lifecycle. The City is considering transforming them into splash pads, but the Councilor argued that there is still some use for wading pools, particularly in communities where youths do not have other opportunities to safely learn to swim. Most wading pools in Ottawa are past their lifecycle but are still in decent shape. Operating costs of a splash pad is less than a wading pool (no need for lifeguards and less chlorine needed).

The Councilor added that when a park has not been touched in 20 years, it is important to have a conversation with the community to get a better understanding of what is needed.

4.2. The Councilor then moved on to his report. The full report is available on the RPCA website.

4.2.1. He first flagged a number of upcoming public consultations. On February 7th, South End Councilors will host a public consultation at the Heron Road Community Centre. This will be a hybrid meeting. Contact information will be available shortly.

The Councilor also drew people's attention to the City of Ottawa's online survey on the budget 2023.

On February 16th the Councilor will be hosting a public information session on the Trillium line. It will focus on the stretch in the Councilor's Ward (from Carleton University to Huntclub Road) with detailed information on the construction and each station. This will be a Zoom meeting.

4.2.2. The Councilor did not have much to report on development. Brigil continues to refine their submission, hoping for progress by the end of month. No news on Canoe Bay. The bids that came in by mid-september are still being assessed.

4.2.3. He then reminded property owners to complete the Vacant Unit Tax and offered the assistance of his office if needed. He noted that while not in favour of this tax, he sees no reason to review this tax at this point and wants Council to have data before reviewing it.

4.2.4. The Councilor then reminded everyone that property damage due to snow clearing operations can be reported to the City and that fire hydrants must be cleared by those living on the property according to bylaw. Those who are not physically able to do it can contact 311.

4.2.5. Moving on to the Airport Parkway and West Walkley Road, the Councilor reported that two information sessions were hosted by the City in late 2022. The Councilor met with local colleagues who are very interested in the Airport Parkway and whether there is still a justifiable demand to widen it. They will ask City staff for refreshed data, including future estimates to prove the necessity. There are a number of concerns that still remain for the proposals for Walkley Road that need to be reviewed. The project isn't being rushed and 2023 will be the year to finalise the designs. The City will host another information session once designs are finalised. The Councilor acknowledged the work of Terry on these issues.

4.2.6. On parks and festivals, the Councilor called for Ottawa bylaw and parks & rec to sit and discuss festivals in the Mooney's Bay park. A meeting is planned for February 2nd to find a better balance for Mooney's Bay park. He is not looking to evict long-standing festivals, but rather focus on finding a better balance. He invited the association to share any concerns over these festivals with his office.

4.2.7. The Councilor then briefly reviewed the rest of the information in his report, including on OC Transpo, the services provided by the Ottawa Public Library, and fared farewell to the Brookfield Restaurant. He invited all the community to come to the farewell party on 21st January.

4.2.8. Finally, the Councilor reviewed the traffic calming plan for 2023. He heard 131 suggestions for traffic calming initiatives across his ward during the campaign. The Councilor had a meeting with traffic calming staff to review every neighbourhood and the suggestions will be reviewed over the coming months, with options and estimates. Every ward gets an allotment of \$50k towards localised traffic calming. The programme was initially seasonal but was expanded to permanent features such as speed bumps. The new Mayor campaigned on a platform to expand these measures to \$100K but likely not until 2025. The details of the suggestions are included in the Councilor's report, but they mainly concern Brookfield Road, Fielding Drive, Flannery Drive at Springland, Harkness - Coleman - Cromwell loop, Revelstoke Drive West, and Southmore Drive (East and West).

4.3. The Councilor's report was followed by a Q&A session:

4.3.1. Terry mentioned that over the last 18 months, the Transportation Committee received concerns from people who said they were almost run over while crossing Riverside Drive. He asked whether anything could be done about this. He also asked to what extent there is a satisfactory traffic management programme in place during festivals, stressing that this would become even more important with all the on-going development and planned construction activity that will take place in the Brookfield / Mooney's Bay area.

The Councilor was aware of speeding on Riverside Drive and he noted that the timing of some pedestrian crossings was already increased. He also agreed on the need for better traffic management during festivals, especially the Lebanese festival. Overall, City staff say there is capacity at most hours of the day and that traffic and parking restrictions are in place in about 25 streets during festivals. The Councilor welcomed any suggestions on additional restrictions. He also suggested inviting the community police officer at an upcoming meeting to discuss traffic issues, something he thought should be done on a yearly basis.

4.3.2. Craig commented on the importance of the Brookfield restaurant for the community. He was surprised by the plan for a no-stop area in front of the Revalie. Finally, he brought up the need for accountability on the LRT.

The Councilor, responded that he is looking for appropriate ways to recognize the restaurant as an

institution as well as its owners, including potentially a commemorative statement in Council. There might also be a media story on them. On the no-stopping, Brookfield Road has always had on-street parking during non-rush hours. It is nevertheless expected that new businesses there will generate traffic and that there will be a demand for on-street parking. The goal of the non-stopping zone is to keep flows during rush hours. The site plan for phase 2 is looking into parking spaces and delivery zones, in addition to on-street parking. On accountability, the Councilor was still waiting for the City's reaction to the Commissioner's report. Once reviewed, it will be time to determine how to proceed, including on the potential professional misconduct of some people involved in the project.

There was a discussion in the comments on the need for the RPCA to properly recognize the Brookfield restaurant with the suggestion of a plaque or a tree planted.

4.3.3. Gabriel asked the Councilor about parking for the Mooney's Bay daycare. The Councilor noted that the daycare parking is indeed packed and that the Church was approached a number of times and they are not interested, probably because of insurance concerns. Marianne asked whether there is a role for the Community association there to show them that it is not just the City asking. The Councilor suggested that the association reach out to the childcare centre to offer assistance. If they endorse any type of advocacy it would be great. Craig recalled that the RPCA approached the Church and was met with a wall.

4.3.4. On Festivals, Dave noted that residents do not want any parking at all on Waterview court all year. The parking on that street is over-subscribed with people speeding up a dead end street. He also called for the continuous monitoring of noise during festivals.

The Councilor said that the City requests a petition to be supported by $\frac{2}{3}$ or more of impacted residents to make modifications to a street's speed or parking. There is an Ottawa police campaign on noise and mufflers. He suggested that this be one of the items brought to his attention and identify areas that are visited by modified vehicles. The onus is on the public to report sound violations via 311. He noted that the Lebanese festival had continuous monitoring at their cost for one year and they have been working on addressing some of the chronic issues over time. Councilor suggested meeting offline to discuss this.

4.3.5. On planning, Dave asked the Councilor about the comprehensive zoning bylaw review. the Councilor had not heard anything recent other than it would occupy most of 2023/24. The Councilor also agreed to clarify when the TMP is expected, and noted that bus routes might be added when Heron Gate is built out. Dave called for the RPCA to arrange a meeting with OC Transpo to discuss how they can better serve the community. The Councilor recalled that there were a number of route changes around the opening of L1 and he expected a similar change, although not as significant around the opening of the extended L1 and Trilium line. He suggested asking OC Transpo ahead of the opening.

5. Rink updates

5.1. Rob stressed that so far it has been a difficult year but that volunteers are working on all rinks. The Pauline Vanier rink is already open and the others should open by the weekend. Pictures will be shared on the RPCA website.

Rob also pointed out that he is always looking for new volunteers, and that if anyone knows about small engines one of the snowblowers needs a tune-up. For more information please email Rob.

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 8th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Dave moved a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Gabriel.

Motion carried.

END.